

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend paragraphs [0007] and [0015] as follows:

[0007] In another aspect of the invention there is provided a ceramic article comprising predominantly a solid-solution of beta-spodumene ranging in molar ratio from 1:1:4 Li<sub>2</sub>O Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> to 1:1:11 Li<sub>2</sub>O Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> wherein magnesium oxide (MgO), manganese oxide (MnO), or cobalt oxide (CoO) is substituted for lithium oxide (Li<sub>2</sub>O Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) at 10 to 65 mole %, preferably 25 to 50 mole %. In one embodiment the ceramic article further comprises a minor phase of mullite (3Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-2SiO<sub>2</sub>) in an amount of up to 50% by weight. Beta-spodumene ceramic articles of this type have a limited amount of lithium for improved catalyst lifetime resistance, in combination with high strength, low thermal expansion and high porosity.

[0015] The invention also relates to a ceramic article comprising predominantly a solid-solution of beta-spodumene ranging in molar ratio from 1:1:4 Li<sub>2</sub>O Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> to 1:1:11 Li<sub>2</sub>O Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> wherein magnesium oxide (MgO), manganese oxide (MnO), or cobalt oxide (CoO) is substituted for lithium oxide (Li<sub>2</sub>O Li<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) at 10 to 65 mole %, preferably 25 to 50 mole %. Inventive bodies may further include a minor phase of mullite (3Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-2SiO<sub>2</sub>) in an amount of up to 50% by weight.